GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:18.11.2002
TESTING OF FOODGRAIN PRODUCE
VIRENDRA KUMAR

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to prescribe any criteria for the testing of foodgrains produced through organic manures, fertilisers, pesticides and bio technology;

(b) if so, the time by which such criteria is likely to be notified;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up reliable Laboratories for the testing of foodgrains produced through biotechnology; and

(d) if so, the time by which these laboratories are likely to start functioning?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. Quality of food products (including foodgrains) are regulated under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, in the Department of Health, Ministry of Health, under AGMARK Act. This is implemented by Directorate of Marketing Inspection(DMI Under this Act quality standards of 163 agricultural and allied commodities including foodgrains have already been formulated, so far. The Bureau of Indian Standard (BIS) has also published the standards for the Food Grain Testing vide No.4333 (Part I to V) which is already existing as the National Standard on method of analysis of Foodgrains.

(c) & (d) No Sir. Laboratories and testing set up are already available for normally produced foodgrains. However, The DBT jointly with ICAR has established a National Containment cum Quarantine Facility for transgenic planting material in the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources(NBPGR), IARI, New Delhi. DBT has already initiated Research and Development programme, for development o analytical techniques for rapid detection of transgenic traits in Genetically Modified(GM) Food and products derived therefrom in the following Institutions;

1) Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore,
2) National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad,
3) Indian Toxicological Research Centre, Lucknow,
4) Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, and
5) National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi.

All the laboratories identified as above are well known and are actively engaged in the testing of foodgrains produced through biotechnology.